

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
SIG-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 EA-10
FAA-00 CAB-02 DOTE-00 FMC-01 IO-13 AF-10 NEA-10
CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 COME-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /145 R

DRAFTED BY ARA A :FTUMMINIA:OSD/ISA/FMRA:JREINERTSON:KC
APPROVED BY ARA:SASHELTON
ARA/CAR:AH EWITT
OSD/ISA/I-A:CAPT. MAY
DOD/OP:CDR. GRAY
COGARD:CDR. HERBERT
PM/ISO:PSCHLAMM
OSD/ISA/FMRA:JREINERTSON
ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA

-----097872 190905Z /23

R 180004Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
SECDEF
CNO
COGARD ONSOD
COMNAVELECSTYSCOM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, FR, CA, NO, GW, NL, MX, VE, AR, BR

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SHUTDOWN OF OMEGA TRINIDAD TRANSMITTER

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1. THE TEMPORARY OMEGA NAVIGATION TRANSMITTING FACILITY IN TRINIDAD-TOBAGO HAS BEEN OPERATED BY THE USCG SINCE 1967 ON LAND PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (GOTT) FOR UNITED STATES USE UNDER THE 1961 WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT. THAT AGREEMENT EXPIRED ON 31 DECEMBER 1977 AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOTT TO CONTINUE OPERATION OF THIS IMPORTANT STATION UNTIL THEEIGHTAND LAST PERMANENT OMEGA FACILITY IN AUSTRALIA ISCOMPLETED IN 1980 HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE. THE GOTT HAS INFORMED US THAT THE STATION MUST BE CLOSED BY JUNE 30 1978. THIS WILL ENTAIL CESSATION OF TRANSMISSIONS AS OF 31 MARCH 1978.

2. THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM IS A WORLDWIDE RADIO NAVIGATION SERVICE CONSISTING OF SEVEN PERMANENT TRANSMITTING STATIONS LOCATED IN THE U.S. (2 STATIONS), NORWAY, LIBERIA, ARGENTINA, LA REUNION (FRANCE) AND JAPAN, AND THE TEMPORARY FACILITY IN TRINIDAD-TOBAGO. THE OMEGA SYSTEM PROVIDES CONTINUOUS, ALL-WEATHER NAVIGATION CAPABILITY ON A GLOBAL BASIS, WITH ACCURACIES APPROACHING 2-4 NAUTICAL

MILES, 95 PERCENT OF THE TIME. THE SYSTEM IS EXTENSIVELY USED BY U.S. AND FOREIGN MILITARY, COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT. IT IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE EQUIPPED WITH A PROPER RECEIVER SOLD BY VARIOUS U.S. AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS.

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3. THE TRINIDAD SIGNAL PROVIDES ESSENTIAL OMEGA COVERAGE OVER MANY AREAS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEANS. NAVIGATION USING OMEGA, ESPECIALLY DURING NIGHTTIME PERIODS, WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LIMITED FOR MANY USERS IF THE TRINIDAD STATION IS DISESTABLISHED BEFORE COMPENSATING COVERAGE FROM THE PLANNED STATION IN AUSTRALIA BECOMES AVAILABLE. OMEGA IS KNOWN TO BE USED BY OR OF INTEREST TO GOVERNMENT AND/OR PRIVATE GROUPS IN THE ADDRESSED COUNTRIES, AND A RECENT SURVEY OF KEY U.S. AND FOREIGN USERS OF THE TRINIDAD SIGNAL INDICATES A STRONG DESIRE TO RETAIN THE TRINIDAD OPERATION UNTIL THE AUSTRALIAN STATION COMES ON LINE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TRINIDAD OMEGA FACILITY AND OUR DIFFICULTY TO DATE IN CONVINCING GOTT THAT CONTINUED OPERATION OF THAT FACILITY IS IN THE INTEREST OF OTHER NATIONS AS WELL AS OF THE UNITED STATES ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE MFA'S AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND REQUEST THAT THEY APPROACH GOTT, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF TRINIDAD'S

STATION SHUTDOWN ON OMEGA USERS IN THEIR COUNTRIES. SUCH OMEGA USERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO RELY ON OMEGA SIGNALS FOR NAVIGATION TO AND FROM TRINIDAD ITSELF, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO GOTT'S ATTENTION. INFORMATION AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN SHOULD BE PASSED TO GOTT BY END OF FEBRUARY IF POSSIBLE.

5. INTERESTED AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRIES ADDRESSED WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY EARLY SHUTDOWN OF TRINIDAD STATION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

UNITED KINGDOM - ADMIRALTY SURFACE WEAPONS, RACAL, ROYAL, ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT, ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY, ROYAL NAVY, REDIFON TELECOMMUNICATION LTD, ADMIRALTY
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COMPASS OBSERVATORY, SLOUGH, BERKS, BRITISH PETROLEUM.

FRANCE - FRENCH NAVY, LABORATORIE DE PIPADY, TOULON, RADIO OCEAN, SHELL OIL, SERCEL CORPORATION, INSTITUTE FRANCAIS DE NAVIGATION.

CANADA - AIR CANADA, IMPERIAL OIL COMPANY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, TRANSPORT CANADA, INNOTECH AVIATION LTD, CANADIAN MARCONI, LTD. -

NORWAY - KONSBERG VAPEN FABRIKK, TELESIGNAL, MAJOR SHIPPING COMPANIES, AURORAL OBSERVATORY.

WEST GERMANY - DEUSTCHE HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, DEBEG, GERMAN SPACE ORGANIZATION. - -

NETHERLANDS - KLM AIRLINES, RADIO HOLLAND, SHELL OIL.

MEXICO - MEXICAN NAVY, PETROLEOS MEXICANOS.

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE NAVY, EMPRESAS LINEAS MARITIME ARGENTINAS.

VENEZUELA - REMACON

BRAZIL - BRAZILIAN NAVY, INSTITUTO DO PESQUISAS DE MARINHA.

6. FURTHER DETAILS, INFORMATION OR DATA ON OMEGA SYSTEM CAN BE FURNISHED ADDRESSEES IF REQUIRED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TRANSMITTERS, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
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Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D780077-0285
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1ee607d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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To: LONDON PARIS MULTIPLE
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